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## What is Logical Observation Identifier Names and Codes?

The LOINC database provides a set of universal names and ID codes for identifying laboratory and clinical test results. LOINC facilitates the exchange and pooling of results, such as blood hemoglobin, serum potassium, or vital signs, for clinical care, outcomes management, and research.

The LOINC codes are not intended to transmit all possible information about a test or observation. They are only intended to identify the test result or clinical observation. Other fields in the message can transmit the identity of the source laboratory and special details about the sample. (For instance, the result code may identify a blood culture, but the message source code can be more specific and identify the sample as pump blood.) The level of detail in the LOINC definitions was intended to distinguish tests that are usually distinguished as separate test results within the master file of existing laboratory systems. Please see [Structure of LOINC Codes and Names](#) for further details.

## LOINC and EVS

EVS exports LOINC from the UMLS Metathesaurus as RRF and loads it into LexBIG as a stand-alone terminology. NCI uses LOINC to support clinical trials, research and accumulation of laboratory data, among other things.

LOINC is a caBIG approved vocabulary <[link to caBIG approval](#)> <https://cabig.nci.nih.gov/workspaces/VCDE/Vocab-Standard-Governance-and-Review/> > LOINC was initiated in 1994 by the Regenstrief Institute and developed by Regenstrief and the LOINC committee. Since 2002 it has been the official informatics standard for identifying clinical test results by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AMVA) <[link http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/jun02/s020601o.asp](http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/jun02/s020601o.asp)> The Consolidated Health Informatics (CHI) Initiative listed LOINC as the standard for Laboratory Results Names <[link http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2003pres/20030321a.html](http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2003pres/20030321a.html)> in 2003.

## Discuss Logical Observation Identifier Names and Codes Terminology

Please go to the [Logical Observation Identifier Names and Codes discussion page](#) to leave comments regarding the LOINC Terminology.

Examples of comments may include:

- How you are using this terminology
- Why you decided to use (or not use) this terminology
- Strengths or limitations of the terminology
- Comparisons to other similar terminologies

## **Links**

[LOINC FAQ](#)

[LOINC Home Page](#)